

hundreds of dollars were involved. The old publishers stuck to the Company right through and that, although the commission on some magazines, the Century for example, was not five per cent. On mail business it generally did not amount to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and on English magazines generally less. Dry goods men were now going into the business and the tendency of things seemed to be changing in a way that threatened to cause a crisis in the book trade. Small stores he thought would soon be changed into large bazaars. He had met a gentleman in Montreal the other day who was erecting a \$200,000 store in which there was to be a large book department. He contended that the sale of English sixpenny periodicals at 12 and 15c. by some firms was not sufficient and that the Association should prepare a list of sixpenny papers to be sold at 20 cents. He had got the price, 20 cents, printed on the "Family Herald," but in the face of that it was being sold at 15c. there.

Mr. Wilson—Do you consider 15 per cent. a reasonable profit on periodicals?

Mr. Irving—No, I do not. I would go out of the business.

Mr. Wilson said he was not aware that 6d. magazines were sold at 15c. In London the price was 20c., and Young Ladies' Journal 30c.

#### THE DUTY ON PERIODICALS.

Moved by A. S. Irving, seconded by Mr. Rutter, that this meeting of the Bookellers' and Stationers' Association of Ontario hereby again enters an earnest and emphatic protest against the great injustice under which our business still continues to suffer, through duty being collected on certain periodicals and papers when addressed to us as booksellers and newsdealers, while the same periodicals and papers, when addressed to individual subscribers, are delivered free of duty charges; and it is hereby resolved that a committee of this Association be appointed to again bring this matter forcibly to the attention of the Government at Ottawa, with an urgent request that steps be promptly taken by the Government to at once remedy this grievous injury to our business, and that if such injustice be the result of a conflict between the postal and customs departments, that the rules and regulations governing these departments be so assimilated that an injustice of this kind cannot occur, and whereas it can be readily seen that between these conflicting views the booksellers and newsdealers must suffer, and as an actual fact their customers are more and more ordering direct from the publishers in the United States and Great Britain, thus depriving the trade of a hitherto profitable branch of their business. At the same time the Government suffers a positive loss, and is working in the interests of foreign publishers and booksellers, in that it now receives no revenue whatever for carrying many tons of this class of mail matter and delivering it from door to door by letter carriers in the various cities of the Dominion. We simply ask that we be placed on the same footing as private individuals, and if certain periodical matter is to come in free of duty to one class of citizens why not to all classes? And whereas, while recognizing the difficulties existing under postal treaties, Canada and the United States are under the same treaty, all postal

matter is admitted to the United States free of duty, whether arriving from Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, etc., and whether received by mail, express or freight. If this rule is in force in that country, why cannot the same rule be in force in Canada?

Mr. Rose suggested that the Committee appointed down in Montreal, in regard to paper-covered literature should join the Committee on this subject, if a special one was appointed.

Mr. Irving's resolution was carried, and the following Committee appointed. Messrs. Irving, Sharp and Durie, Hope and Uglow, Ottawa.

On the motion of Mr. Dyas, Messrs. Bryce, Taylor and Rose, were appointed to act for the Association on the other deputation to Ottawa.

On the motion of Mr. Nelles, seconded by Mr. Warwick, Mr. Irving's account for expenses at Ottawa; amounting to \$19.50, was passed.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1889-90.

The following officers were then elected.—President, Mr. H. F. Sharp, re-elected by acclamation; Vice-President for the West, J. A. Nelles; Vice-President for the East, W. Middleton; Secretary-Treasurer, J. B. McLean; Executive Committee, Messrs. Smith, Wallace, Wilson, Bain and Irving.

Mr. Nelles wished that there could have been a greater representation of outsiders; but the Chairman remarked that that could not be done this year.

#### TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Dyas read the Treasurer's statement, which showed receipts, including a balance of \$13.45 to amount to \$41.45, and expenditure to \$27.45. The report was approved.

#### PROPOSAL FOR A SOCIAL.

Mr. Bain thought something should be done by the Executive to secure more members from the country. He thought that if they had a social meeting in the earlier part of the season, to comprise a dinner and talk afterwards, in Harry Webb's, for example, it would be of great benefit.

The Chairman said the Executive Committee had power to issue to members of the trade asking them to give their opinions as to the proper time to hold such a meeting, and the duty was remitted to them.

#### DOINGS OF "THE WORLD."

The next business was the case of the Toronto World. The publishers, Mr. Dyas stated, had taken subscribers for \$2.50 per annum, so that dealers found it impossible to get any more subscriptions. (The Chairman—"The World has been getting ahead of the dealers, has it?") Mr. Dyas stated that the method also interfered with the sale of the other papers. It was stated that The World's method was to go round and advertise towns, and that the other papers were equally to blame. The subject then dropped.

The next subject was the right of publishers of current literature to sell to booksellers and others at prices such as came

into competition with their own publications.

Mr. Dyas instanced the case of Mr. McKenna, on Yonge Street, who sold novels at three for fifty cents.

The Chairman.—The same price as cigars in Chicago. (Laughter.)

Mr. Rose said that the books referred to were from parcels which had been purchased as the clearing out of railway cars.

#### POSTAL RULES.

Mr. Wilson moved—

"That this Association much regrets that the postal grievance, the removal of which it has so long desired and striven for, is still unredressed, and authorizes the Executive Committee to renew their efforts with the Postmaster General, to secure justice and fair play for the trade on this question, and to impress upon him that a system that makes it advantageous for Canadian retail newsdealers, and Canadian individual subscribers for American periodicals and cheap literature, to send their orders to Detroit, Buffalo, and New York, in preference to Toronto, Montreal, and other Canadian cities, is very unjust, and ought to be changed at the earliest possible moment."

The Chairman said that according to the customs law the duty should be paid on these magazine's, while according to the postal law they were allowed to come to single subscribers. The Postal Department was acting under treaty with the United States Postal Department. Sir Leonard Tilley was to have taken the customs duty off altogether, but was stopped by publishers of magazines and others in Canada, with the result that the anomaly had never been rectified. The resolution was carried and the matter referred to the Committee on Duties to draft a petition based on the requirements of the case.

#### THE OFFICIAL ORGAN CONTEST.

The ensuing business on the programme was a notice of motion by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Wallace, "that BOOKS AND NOTIONS cease to be the official organ of the association."

The Chairman said that BOOKS AND NOTIONS was made the official organ by resolutions at the time the Association was started.

The motion was supported by a few remarks by Messrs Wallace, Rose and Robertson. Mr. A. F. Rutter opposed it, saying, that last year he had been in favor of the Bookseller, but since a very marked improvement had taken place in BOOKS AND NOTIONS, which led him to heartily endorse it as the official organ of the Association. Many new features had been added, making it a credit to the trade. Instead, therefore, of wiping them both out, one should be recognized as the official organ and that should be BOOKS AND NOTIONS. Mr. Bain strongly opposed any change. The paper had last year undergone vast improvements. Money had been thrown into it and new features added, placing it in such a position as it not only did credit to this country, but